

to His Excellency

J. C. Edwards, Governor of Missouri

Mr Wiley Horn, a citizen of Johnson County, was murdered in May last. John a runaway slave belonging to Mr. E. H. Lane of Kentucky, was committed for the murder to the jail in Georgetown.

While there, although with one arm broken (in taking him), and the other chained to his feet, he managed to wrench off an iron bar from the door and had nearly destroyed the lock when he was discovered by the jailer —

He was indicted at a special term of our Circuit Court in June, and by

virtue of an act and commitment to the jail of Jefferson County, is to stand

his trial at our October Circuit Court. I saw him safely lodged in the dungeon of the jail at Independence, which was at the time and has been ever since guarded by two armed men, employed day and night for the purpose by order of Court (there being another man also confined there on a charge of murder.)

Notwithstanding his broken arm, his bonds, the dungeon, the jailer and the guard he succeeded in escaping from jail on Wednesday night the 20th instant, and is now at large.

He was seen and fired at on Sunday night last on the premises of the murdered man, but escaped again.

He is said to have been once or twice committed to jail in Kentucky, but always broke out. He absconded from his Quaker some 5 or 6 years since, and although it was all but certain that he was all that time

concealed in the vicinity of the murder, and although vigorous search has been from time to time made, by his master in person, and

by his friends, he eluded the search and defied detection, until the excitement and examination occasioned by the murder.

So desperate a character ought not to be at large.

Should your Excellency deem it proper to offer a reward for his apprehension the following is a description of his person.

John is a likely negro about 5 feet 10 inches high. Keen active, well made, light limbed, about 30 years old, and but little of the negro in his countenance except his color which is a dark coffee or mulatto, and his hair is short and kinky.

He has old whip marks on his back, knife scars about the collar bone and late ball or back-

shot wounds on the left arm and calf of the leg.

He left the jail well ironed and poorly clad.

All of which is Respectfully submitted.

John Price

Warrensburg, Johnson County, Aug 27, 1845.

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